Price 2d.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. CLVI. DECEMBER, 1861. Vol. XIII.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
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JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg with thanks to acknowledge the receipt of a parcel of clothing and tracts from an Anonymous Friend, two parcels of clothing from Miss Bodkin, for Lamb and Flag and Fox Court Schools, fancy articles for Bazaar at Smith's Place, from Miss Ripley, a parcel of clothing from Miss Albert, a parcel of shirts from Mrs. Reade, and Mrs. Sutton, and two bundles of clothing, &c., from Mrs. Craig and Mrs. Robertson.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION—SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

PRESIDENT—RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

TREASURER—R. C. L. BEVAN, ESQ.

HON. SECRETARY—W. LOCKE, ESQ.

OFFICE: 1, EXETER HALL, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

During the seventeen years the Society has been in operation a large number of Schools have been established in the most wretched localities of the metropolis. At the present time 27,000 children of the most neglected class are under instruction, 211 Paid Teachers are employed in Day Schools, and 143 in Evening Schools, and 700 destitute children have homes provided for them.

To aid in sustaining these operations in efficiency the Committee have considerably exceeded their annual income; they therefore earnestly appeal to the public for Special Aid, which will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, at the Office, 1, Exeter Hall, W. C., and by the Treasurer, R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., 54, Lombard Street.

JOSEPH G. GENT, *Secretary.*

RAGGED SCHOOL LECTURES
TO THE WORKING CLASSES, &c.

The Superintendent of the Stoke Newington Ragged School, having prepared for use in his own School and neighbourhood an illustrated Lecture, entitled "The Story of the Book," would be happy, as far as other engagements permit, to deliver it on behalf of similar institutions.

Particulars may be had by applying to Mr. G. ANDERSON, 9, Church Row, Stoke Newington, N.

THE
RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

The **THIRTEENTH VOLUME** of this Periodical will be published early in December, bound in cloth, price 2s. 6d.; and may be had at the Office of the Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand; and of the Publishers, KENT & Co., 52, Paternoster Row.

OUR CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE.

The **THIRD VOLUME** of the NEW SERIES will be ready early in December, containing Fifty Illustrations, with a beautiful Frontispiece of Home Affection. This volume will be found suitable for Christmas Presents and New-Year's Gifts. Bound in cloth, of various colours, price 10d. They will be supplied to Schools, on application, at 1, Exeter Hall, at 8s. per dozen.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE DESTITUTE.

RAGGED CHURCH & CHAPEL UNION,

Office, 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross.

Patron.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

President.—THE RIGHT. HON. LORD EBURY.

The Committee of this Society earnestly appeal to the Christian public for funds to enable them to carry on their operations. In the most destitute districts of the metropolis Forty preaching-stations are in active operation, attended by upwards of 3,000 persons. In connection with these efforts numerous instances of usefulness have been brought under the notice of the Committee. Many applications for assistance are now before the Committee, and they will be compelled reluctantly to withhold their grants unless assistance is afforded. Shall it be said that British Christians refused to help so good a cause?

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and the Members of the Committee; by Messrs. Nisbet, Berners Street; Hatchard, Piccadilly; Seeley, Fleet Street and Hanover Square; the Bankers; and by the Secretary, Mr. William F. Blake, at the Office of the Society, 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross.

The Annual Report for the past year will be forwarded, post free, on a line being addressed to the Secretary.

URGENT APPEAL.

ST. PANCRAS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND REFUGE,

8, CONSTITUTION ROW, GRAY'S INN ROAD.

President—THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

This Institution (formerly carried on in Britannia Court) provides Industrial employment and a home for the most destitute and neglected Boys of the neighbouring Ragged Schools. About 120 Boys have been received since it was established, a large proportion of whom have been rescued from vagrancy and crime, and placed in respectable situations or otherwise provided for. The district is so poor that the local subscriptions are quite inadequate to enable the Committee to carry on the work. The funds are now exhausted; and unless additional help is obtained, this Institution, which has been such a blessing to the neighbourhood, must be given up. It is, therefore, proposed to hold, early in the Spring of next year, in the HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS,

A FANCY SALE,

(of which particulars will be announced) for the benefit of the Institution.

Needlework, Fancy Work, Useful or Ornamental Articles of any description, or Contributions in Money, will be thankfully received, and may be sent to the Office of the Ragged School Union.

All contributions are requested to be sent before the end of March. Further information may be obtained on application to the Honorary Secretary, J. H. FORDHAM, Esq., 2, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

Offered to Schools on the same Terms as formerly supplied by the Committee of Council on Education.

Mr. WILLIAM COLLINS begs to intimate to Teachers and Managers of Schools, that he is now prepared to supply his Editions of the above popular School Books, which are well printed on good paper, and strongly bound, at the reduced prices at which they were formerly supplied by the Committee of Council on Education, when they are ordered to the amount of £2, or upwards.

Glasgow, 203, *Buchanan Street, November*, 1861.

NEW RAGGED SCHOOL
IN WHITECHAPEL.

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE is required to enable the Rector of Whitechapel to accept a most liberal offer of a site for building a new Ragged School. A piece of ground is promised at a nominal rent, on lease for ninety-nine years, on condition that a suitable building be erected without delay.

The present School has been in operation for thirteen years; but it is held in a small room, limited by the Sanitary Inspector to seventy-five inmates. The proposed site, which is close to the spot, and in the midst of a numerous and very poor population, is large enough for 400 children. The Room would be used for Divine Service on Sundays, for Night Schools, Lectures, &c.

The parish and neighbourhood of Whitechapel have contributed liberally to the object, and a committee has been formed to carry out the plan. But it is earnestly hoped that others living in more favoured localities will also assist so good a cause. These children live in Whitechapel; but the labour of their parents is given all over London—at the waterside, in the docks, on large buildings, in manufactories, and wherever heavy work is to be done. The whole mercantile community and the public at large have an interest in the moral and social well-being even of the poorest of their fellow-creatures.

It is estimated that the sum of £1,300 will be required to complete the buildings and fittings.

Contributions will be thankfully received by

Rev. JAMES COHEN, M.A., Rector of Whitechapel, *Chairman of the Committee.*
JOHN DAVIS, Esq., 113, Leman Street, Whitechapel, } *Treasurers.*
Mr. CHARLES FILLINGHAM, 278, Road Side, Whitechapel, }

Amount of Contributions already received, £680 5s.

HANDSOME ILLUSTRATED GIFT-BOOKS.

THE LEISURE HOUR VOLUME FOR 1861,

Consisting of 832 super-royal 8vo pages of Instructive, Entertaining, and Varied Reading, and embellished with 178 superior Engravings by eminent Artists, may be had, on application to any Bookseller, for SIX SHILLINGS, in cloth Boards. For School prizes, Gift Books, or Birthday presents, copies may be obtained elegantly bound with gilt edges, price 7s. 6d. and 9s.

THE SUNDAY AT HOME VOLUME FOR 1861,

Containing 832 pages of Biography, Narrative, Sacred Philosophy, Missionary Incident, Scripture Illustration, Practical Discourses, Poetry, and interesting Stories for the Young, enriched with about 130 first-class engravings, may be had for SIX SHILLINGS in cloth boards: or in an extremely elegant style of binding, price 7s. 6d. and 9s.

London: Religious Tract Society, 56, Paternoster Row, and 164 Piccadilly; and sold by all Booksellers.

REV. HENRY BLUNT'S WORKS.

LECTURES on our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. Thirteenth Edition, 3 vols, 5s. 6d. each.

The FAMILY EXPOSITION of the PENTATEUCH. Third Edition, 3 vols., 6s. each.

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Published by Hatchard and Co., 187, Piccadilly, and Hamilton, Adams, and Co., Paternoster Row.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

50, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

Stilton Cheese, surpassingly fine!!!

FROM A CHOICE OF ABOUT ONE THOUSAND.

Real Russian Ox Tongues, 21s. per dozen.

American Cheese, from 6½d. per pound.

Cheddor and Cheshire Cheese of rarest quality.

Mild Breakfast Bacon. York and Bath Hams, all sizes.

Bath Chaps, &c. Good Household Butter, 1s. per pound.

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PROVISION WAREHOUSES,

88, BOROUGH HIGH STREET,

AND 9, ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, S.E.

BROWN & POLSON'S

B P

TRADE MARK

PATENT CORN FLOUR.

The most interesting account of its value as an article of daily use is given in

"THE LEISURE HOUR,"

of May 30, 1861, in a Paper upon "Maize or Indian Corn," from which the following is an extract:—

"Ever since the Potato Famine of 1846-7, very large quantities of Maize have been imported, and the amount is still increasing; this is partly referable to an ingenious and very successful method of manufacture, conducted at Paisley by Messrs. BROWN and POLSON, an engraving of the operation in whose factory is appended. There can be no doubt that the amylaceous material prepared and sold by them has all the advantages which they claim for it, under the name of PATENT CORN FLOUR."

BROWN & POLSON, Manufacturers and Purveyors to Her Majesty: Paisley, Manchester, Dublin, and London.

COUGHS, ASTHMA, AND INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION are EFFECTUALLY CURED by KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.

JUDGED by the IMMENSE DEMAND, this *Universal Remedy* now stands the first in public favour and confidence; this result has been acquired by the test of fifty years' experience.—These Lozenges may be found on sale in every British Colony, and throughout India and China they have been highly esteemed wherever introduced. For Coughs, Asthma, and all affections of the Throat and Chest, they are the most agreeable and efficacious remedy.

Prepared and Sold in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., and Tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London. Retail by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Vendors in the World.

N. B.—To prevent spurious imitations, please to observe that the word "KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES" are engraved on the Government Stamp of each Box, without which none are genuine.

CLERKENWELL
LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOLS.

£200 REQUIRED.

THE Committee beg respectfully to solicit contributions to liquidate the debt incurred consequent upon the rebuilding of the Schools, in which are carried on—

DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS, GIRLS, AND INFANTS.
EVENING SCHOOL—MONDAY AND THURSDAY.
MOTHERS' MEETING—WEDNESDAY.
CLOTHING FUND.
SABBATH SCHOOL—MORNING, AFTERNOON, AND EVENING.

The locality in which these Schools are situated is one of the poorest and most abandoned in the metropolis.

It being very important to clear the remaining debt by the end of the present year, the liberality of the Christian public is earnestly solicited.

Subscriptions will be most thankfully received by Mr. TERRY, the Treasurer, 25, St. John Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.; the Secretary, Mr. W. G. WATTS, 7, Birchmore Terrace, Cardington Street, Hampstead Road, N.W.; or of Mr. GENT, Ragged School Union Office, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

ST. JAMES' HALL, PICCADILLY.

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11, 1861,

THE

REV. W. BROCK

Will (D.V.) deliver his Lecture on the

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

In the above Hall.

LADIES NOT ADMITTED ON THIS OCCASION.

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 8 O'CLOCK. ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING.

The entire proceeds of this Lecture will be devoted to the protection of Friendless and the Rescue of Fallen Young Women, by the

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution,

which sustains Four Branch Establishments.

Since September, 1857, nearly seven hundred poor young women have been admitted to the benefits of this Institution, but more than double this number might have been rescued if adequate funds had been forthcoming.

The Committee earnestly ask the co-operation of all who feel an interest in this important enterprise.

As it is expected that the attendance will be large on this occasion, an early application for Tickets (price One Shilling) will be necessary, and as on the evening of the Lecture it may not be possible to give change at the time of admission, gentlemen not having Tickets are requested to provide themselves with the exact sum to pay, in order to avoid confusion.

Doors open at Half-past Seven.

Tickets at 200, Euston Road, or forwarded on receipt of Stamps.

200, *Euston Road, N.W.* E. W. THOMAS, *Secretary.*

Papers, Original and Selected.

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

APPEAL FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

THE Ragged School Union has seldom appealed to the public for aid. Only on two occasions have the Committee made special appeals to the public. The first was in 1848, which was so liberally responded to that the funds were increased

From £696 5s. 2d. in 1847-8
To £3,633 1 8 in 1848-9

The aid thus given gave an early and an important impetus to the movement. The increase in each department during the period that elapsed between the first and second special appeals may be seen by the following figures:—

	Sunday.		Week Day.		Week Evening.			
	Schools.	Children in Attendance.	Schools.	Children in Attendance.	Schools.	Children in Attendance.	Number of Paid Teachers.	Number of Voluntary Teachers.
1847-8	56	5,843	30	3,480	67	3,500	80	822
1856-7	128	19,946	103	13,979	121	7,538	355	2,461

The second appeal was made in 1856-7, and the response it met with increased the Society's income

From £2,301 16s. 2d. in 1855-6
To £6,724 19 0 in 1856-7

During the period between the issue of that last appeal and the close of 1861, the Committee have in no degree relaxed their efforts to meet the educational necessities of the lowest strata of the London population. The results of those labours, so far as the simple increase of numbers is concerned, will be seen from the following figures:—

	Sunday.		Week Day.		Week Evening.				
	Schools.	Scholars in Attendance.	Schools.	Scholars in Attendance.	Schools.	Scholars in Attendance.	Number of Paid Teachers.		Number of Voluntary Teachers.
1855-6	128	16,937	98	13,057	117	8,085	332		2,139
							Paid Teachers.	Paid Monitors.	
1860-1	208	25,264	161	17,240	216	9,841	386	404	2,972
								0	

Such results as these could not be worked out without much labour and considerable expenditure. We should be glad to dilate upon the vast amount of personal self-denying labours put forth during the last four years, and which resulted in the remarkable increase just referred to; but our topic now is rather money than labour. The books of the Ragged School Union have been under our inspection, and which we find are duly audited, and the balances tested at least monthly by a person from a city banking-house, and peculiarly competent for that work. From these books we have gathered that the Committee have spent *the whole of each year's income* during the past four years, *and in addition* have also spent for aid to

Schools and general operations	£110	15	8
In support of Inmates in Refuges	2,199	5	8
And for Emigration	297	1	5
Amount expended in four years over and above Annual Income	2,607	2	9

It is thus clear that the Committee have seriously lessened their resources, and which, unless replaced by the special appeal about to be made, the further onward progress of their operations must receive a check that will discourage a little army of Christian philanthropists who permeate the worst districts, and there labour for the moral and spiritual elevation of the poor of London. This we do not anticipate. We have full confidence in the British public: and trust we have a simple but firm faith in the Great Master in whose cause the Committee labour, and who will continue to smile on their efforts, and grant that success which He deems best, and in a way, and at the time that He sees will most advance His glory.

The Committee believe that God will own effort—hence they labour, and they find the blessing comes. They also believe that the public appreciate those labours, and need only to be told that, to sustain them in efficiency, their special aid is needed in order to obtain it. For a third time in eighteen years the Committee make a

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

The following is the circular the Committee are about to issue to their friends and supporters, and which we commend to their serious attention, and hope for their liberal response:—

"During the seventeen years the Society has been in operation,

there have been established in the Metropolis, and are now in full working order,

208 Sunday Schools	with	25,000	Scholars	in	attendance.
161 Day	„	„ 17,240	„		„
216 Evening	„	„ 9,840	„		„

The total number of Scholars on the books in the Day and Evening Schools exceeds 34,000.

Respecting these Schools the Select Committee of the House of Commons reported to Parliament, in 1853, that

> "Ragged Schools have produced beneficial effects on the children of the most destitute classes of society inhabiting large towns."

And in July, 1861, another Select Committee on the Education of Destitute Children reported to the House of Commons, that

> "Ragged Schools have undoubtedly been of considerable benefit."
>
> That "Ragged Schools are strongly impressed with a missionary character; their primary object is to reclaim and civilise a child, and then place it in some honest calling." * * * *
>
> And "That whatever children are not reached by the Industrial Schools Bill, now passing through Parliament, or any other proposed measures, be left to the exertions of the Ragged School Managers, without interference by the Government."

The voluntary element in the Teaching being so largely adopted in Ragged Schools, has worked out most beneficial results, at the least possible expense to the public. The erection of costly buildings has been checked and those generally used which could be made suitable at a small expenditure. Paid Teachers are indispensable, and have proved valuable agents. Rent, School Materials, &c., have to be provided; small Outfits have to be furnished to Scholars placed in Situations, or sent out as emigrants; and small Prizes awarded as a stimulus to good conduct while in Situations kept at least twelve months. In extremely destitute cases a home has to be provided for a child. 700 of these destitute cases are now in homes. Nor are the claims of the adult population overlooked, for by the Parents' Meetings and Provident Clubs, held in connection with Ragged Schools, many thousands of these adults are gathered in Schools for moral and spiritual training.

These objects, although economically carried out, involve a considerable annual outlay, which, it is to be regretted is above the Annual Receipts.

The Committee, on November 8th, 1861, took the state of the funds into their serious consideration, and it was then shewn—

I. That the General Fund for forwarding the education and promoting the moral improvement of the 34,000 children has been overdrawn to the extent of £500.

II. That the Refuge Fund, for aiding to provide homes for the destitute children coming from Ragged Schools, was overdrawn to the extent of £347 2s. 1d.

III. That the Deposit Fund of £750, held at the last audit in April, has been wholly absorbed.

IV. That to meet the present urgent claims upon the Society, the Committee sold a portion of Consols (derived from a legacy), amounting to £968 6s. 7d.

Under these circumstances the Committee, being entirely dependent on Voluntary Contributions, have no option but to make their position known to the friends and supporters of the Society, and earnestly to appeal to the public for special assistance.

Contributions will be thankfully received at the OFFICE OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION, 1, EXETER HALL, *and by the* TREASURER, *at* 54, LOMBARD STREET.

W. LOCKE, *Hon. Secretary.*
JOSEPH G. GENT, *Secretary.*

December, 1861.

If ever an appeal deserved a hearty and generous response, that appeal surely is the one now made by the Committee of the Ragged School Union.

It is most important that the ground occupied should not only be retained, but continue to be well worked. To retreat would be disastrous. Advancement must be the watchword, and benevolence, in the exercise of its numerous powers, must be seen moving onward, armed with the irresistible influences of love to the Redeemer, and full of Christian philanthropy towards suffering humanity.

THE RAG COLLECTING BRIGADE.

IN the Great Exhibition of 1851 the Shoe-Black Brigade made its commencement, and for upwards of ten years has been prosecuting its labours with great benefit to the boys and with considerable satisfaction to the public. In the first year 24 boys were so employed, and earned £656. The increase each year has been gradually progressive till February, 1861, when it was reported the number of boys employed was 331, and their year's earnings were £4,647. Such results could not have been obtained without good organisation and very careful oversight of the managers. Had not the plans been very systematically arranged and

judiciously carried out by the proper agency, the effort might have resulted in an evil rather than a benefit.

Ten years' experience proves the scheme of 1851 a decided success. And now, in the Great Exhibition year of 1862, we start another new effort for finding good employment for Ragged School boys, and whose labours will be followed by increasing cleanliness in dwellings and warehouses; and that which is almost dirt, which they, it is proposed, shall clear away, will be turned to good marketable material, thus conferring a threefold benefit—

Employment for the deserving poor.
Houses, &c., cleared of waste refuse on business principles.
Increasing the supply of material in great demand.

It will be clearly seen the benefits will not end here. A stimulus will be given to the scholars in the Schools to prepare with greater zest for situations, and the increase of the material will give increased employment to all engaged in various manufactories. Rag and bone gatherers and mudlarks have from time immemorial been known to the police as well as the public, not only in this country, but in France. The Chiffonniers of Paris are engaged in their duties from the time of closing the shops until the day dawns. Each man gathers and disposes of what he collects on his own account, as in this country hitherto. The man who first reaches a heap of sweepings visits it undisturbed,—this is a law amongst them, and a race between them is sometimes witnessed. They have also their particular districts. The shop and warehouse refuse is for the most part the source of their gains, and they know pretty well the hours that the sweepings take place. That which most attracts their attention are rags of every kind (but woollen less than linen or cotton), iron, tin, paper, bones, glass, &c., indeed, anything that can in any way be turned to account. When the labour of the night is over, or the large basket full, these men proceed at once to purchasers who are prepared to receive them. The contents of their baskets are carefully sorted, valued, and paid for. These men carry their baskets high on the back, and very cleverly pick up the smallest rag with their hook at the end of a thin stick, and pass it over their shoulder into the basket. The lantern carried by chiffonniers gives a good light, and is, of course, lowered into the heterogeneous heap, in which nothing of the least value remains after the visitation. These men are sometimes as ragged as the contents of their baskets; many succeed in making a good livelihood; some have died rich. Such is a photograph of the chiffonniers of Paris. The rag and refuse gatherers of London do not exist as a class; a straggling individual may be seen with a bag at his back. They are not numerous, and the few that do exist meet with but a fraction of the success of their kin of Paris. This is to a very considerable extent owing to the very general use of dust-bins in English houses, and but seldom to be found in French houses. Into these dust-bins are thrown all kinds of refuse to be cleared away by the dust-contractor, not, however, till by damp and mould the good properties of much of the refuse are destroyed.

In Glasgow and Leith, a scheme is being or about to be adopted by some wide-awake shopkeepers to employ children to gather refuse material on the system of gifts from the houses, and dividing the value between the gatherers and the buyers.

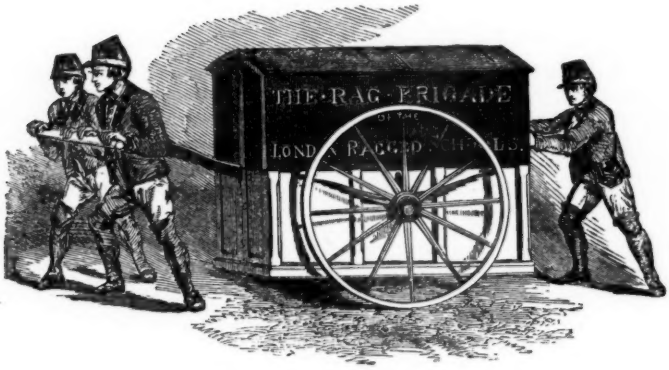
The scheme about to be commenced in London is altogether on a different

footing, and will be based on fair business principles of purchase, according to a regular tariff of prices, regulated by the market value of the article. For this purpose a society has been formed, with the usual officers and managers, to be entitled

THE RAG COLLECTING BRIGADE

OF THE

LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.



The Committee, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is the chairman, decided on November 19, at a meeting held in the Guildhall Coffee House, on commencing operations on the 1st of January next, previous to which circulars will be freely sent through the post, informing the public of the principles and chief details of the new scheme. The following is a copy of that scheme :—

"The object of the promoters of this movement is to furnish suitable and remunerative employment during the day-time to the elder boys of our Ragged Schools. Their days are now for the most part spent either in idleness or in irregular and precarious pursuits, and thus the good influences of the Night School and of the Sunday School are largely frittered away. On the other hand, the daily waste in this great metropolis of cast-off and cast-out materials which are useful for manufacturing and other purposes is immense, and this has seemed to suggest the proper field for the employment of the boys. Rags of all kinds, waste paper, and worn and broken metal are increasingly important elements in our national industry. During the month of October last no less than 7,350 bags of *foreign rags* were offered at public auction in Liverpool alone. And again, bones and other refuse kitchen-stuff, which are now frequently surreptitiously disposed of or altogether wasted, are valuable items in our commercial economy.

It has been resolved, therefore, to form a band or brigade of carefully chosen boys, who, under proper superintendence, will be employed in the earlier part of every work-day in calling periodically at our homes and offices to *purchase*, according to a regulated tariff of market rates, the refuse material we have to

offer them. They will have covered trucks, scales and weights, and receipt-books,* and will pay ready money for their purchases. During the first few months each party will be under the care of an adult superintendent, for the better satisfaction of the householders and others at the outset, and for the instruction of the boys in their duties.

A Brigade Bank will be established, and no boy will be raised to the position of "Collector," and entrusted with the money for the daily trading payments, till he has at his credit in this Bank a sum sufficient to guarantee the amount of his daily dealings.

Store-rooms will be obtained, where, under skilled management, the boys will sort and prepare the stuff for sale. The disposal of it will be effected either by auction or in such other manner as will best secure a fair market price.

The boys will be provided with a suitable uniform, the cost of which they will defray by instalments. They will from the first be paid fixed weekly wages and a per-centage upon the value of the stuff collected, and the results of the trading beyond what may suffice for these wages will be apportioned to the working expenses of the concern, provision for its extension, and the further permanent assistance of the boys themselves.

The practicability of training this class of boys for useful occupation has been demonstrated by the success of the Shoe-Black Brigade. It is believed that the Rag Brigade will be fully as beneficial as that important movement, by giving

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* TRUCK No. 1. ROTATION No. 0001.

THE RAG BRIGADE
OF THE
LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Date.....

RECEIVED.....for .....

Name.....

Address.....

NOTE.—The Committee earnestly request the seller kindly to sign the above, it being of the greatest importance to the success of the Society that receipts should be given for ALL CASH PAID, no matter how small the amount.

TRUCK No. 1. ROTATION No. 0001.

THE RAG BRIGADE
OF THE
LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Central Depôt,

Date.....

RECEIVED for the above Society, ...

of the value of.....

.....Collector.

Any complaint of inattention or misconduct of the Boys to be addressed to the "MANAGER," as above, and will receive prompt attention.

On the other side of this Receipt is the following:—

THE RAG BRIGADE OF THE LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Chairman.—RT. HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
Treasurer.—HENRY E. GURNEY, ESQ.

This Society is established to provide industrial employment for Destitute Boys from Ragged Schools—by gathering Rags, Bones, Metal, Kitchen-stuff, Waste Paper, &c., for which will be paid A FAIR MARKET PRICE.

Any profits that may be made will be devoted to the extension of the scheme and the assistance of the Boys in such ways as may be desirable.

an honest direction to the trading propensities of the boys, and by forming in them habits of industry, and that thus it will help to qualify them for our shops and warehouses.

The Shoe-Black Brigade was one of the new features of the first Exhibition year; this Rag Brigade will be a feature of the second, and it will be to our visitors a mark of the vitality and progress of our moral and benevolent institutions.

It is calculated that £500 will be required to start it, and it is proposed to raise that amount by benevolent contributions; but it is expected that the Brigade will soon not only be self-supporting, but will provide for its own gradual self-extension.

The Committee of Management appeal with confidence to the public for this sum, and further, and not less earnestly, they ask of all householders and merchants a kindly encouragement to the boys upon their rounds.

Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Mr. R. STONE, the Hon. Financial Secretary, 3, Charlotte Row, Mansion House, E.C., or by any member of the Committee; and by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

The following circular will be addressed to the householders before the call is made for effecting purchases :—

THE RAG BRIGADE OF THE LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

CENTRAL DEPÔT,

Chairman.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
Treasurer.—HENRY EDMUND GURNEY, ESQ.

YOUR patronage is earnestly requested by this Society, the great object of which is to provide *suitable* and *remunerative employment* for *destitute boys* from our *Ragged Schools*, by the collection of

RAGS, BONES, BOTTLES, METALS, KITCHEN-STUFF, PAPER, AND MARKETABLE WASTE OF ALL KINDS,

For which the CURRENT PRICES will be paid according to printed tariff. The advantages to the Householder will be FAIR PRICES, GOOD WEIGHT, and the saving of TIME and TROUBLE in seeking a market.

The first visit will be TO-MORROW; and, if practicable, each house will be visited fortnightly on stated days.

It is respectfully requested, as a matter of great importance to the success of the Society, that a memorandum be taken for all goods sold, however small the quantity, and that the seller will kindly sign the counterpart of the same in the Boy's Book.

Note.—Should any householder object to be called upon, or should there be for disposal goods not contemplated in the tariff, or a larger quantity than you think the boys are qualified to deal for, &c., &c., a line addressed to the Manager at the Depôt, as above, will receive prompt attention; and it is further earnestly requested that nothing may be given to the boys apart from the Society.

By order of the Committee,
JOHN H. LLOYD,
RICHARD STONE, } *Hon. Secretaries.*

It will thus be seen that although the refuse is to be paid for, the scheme is proposed to be self-sustaining, after being fairly launched with the needful appli-

ances of trucks, uniform for the boys, &c. The profits will be employed for the benefit of the boys engaged in the concern, under the direction of the Committee and Hon. Officers. The success of the plan will, to a large extent, rest with the householders, if they will generally adopt a Rag Bag to deposit whatever is done with, and for disposal to the boys. We shall have to report of the Rag Brigade at the period of holding the World's Third Fair, as we now do of the Shoe-Black Brigade, at the commencement of the World's Second Fair. To show the need of more systematic arrangements for gathering the rags of this country, we need only refer to the evidence given before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, which sat during the last session of Parliament. It was stated before that Committee that *not more than four-tenths of the rags of this country are preserved.* If the remaining six-tenths of the rags were carefully preserved and returned to be re-manufactured, there would be no necessity to go to foreign markets for meeting the deficiency of some twenty-five per cent. in the amount of rags now required for the paper manufacture of this country.

The Italians have their "*Il sacco delle miserie,*" their "sack of miseries," denoting what by the prudent housewives of a former generation was always regarded as an indispensable article in household economy, the *Rag Bag.* A great change has been introduced into the habits of English households in this respect, chiefly through the comparative cheapness of ready-made articles of dress, which have rendered the office of the domestic seamstress no longer so important and so continuous as it was some years ago. The days are gone by when "the tidy" was considered as indispensable as the work table; every paring, and every bit of thread or cotton were put into it, to keep the table clear and the carpet neat, and its contents regularly emptied once a week into the common rag bag. We refer to those good old practices with an earnest desire that they may be generally revived, for by its re-adoption all classes will be benefited at the expense of no one portion of society.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

A Remonstrance to the Idlers, and an Invite to the Willing, by a Hard-worker among Volunteers.

THERE has been no great united effort that has exhibited more genuine Christianity, more devoted attachment to Christ, than the Ragged School work, and yet, glorious as are its achievements, little has been done compared with what yet remains to be done. Our large towns and crowded cities still teem with a juvenile population, growing up amid influences that threaten society and mock our boasted civilization. The Ragged School effort aims to Christianize that portion of our population which has so long escaped the notice, or eluded the efforts, of our more formally recognised Christian teachers. It is, in fact, a missionary institution, boldly aggressive, taking light to darkness, knowledge to ignorance, truth to error, a Saviour to the lost. It frequently succeeds in reaching the parents through the children, and by means of its affiliated institutions, such as Penny Banks, Clothing Clubs, Mothers' Meetings, and Scholars' Prizes, inculcates thrift

and providence, promotes cleanliness of body and tidiness in dress, awakens a laudable ambition, and spurs to persevering industry.

This glorious work requires increasing aid, and demands a larger staff of earnest, enthusiastic, energetic workers.

The statement, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few," is as true now as when it was uttered by the Master. The professedly Christian Church in this country is numerically large, but the unremitting, unwearied workers are few. It would surprise the world and the Church too if a tabulated statement were prepared, showing the number of the professed followers of Christ as compared, or rather contrasted, with the number of those who are engaged in active Christian work. Such a table would, I fear, exhibit a comparatively small amount of active sympathy with the great Head of the Church with reference to the grand design that induced his appearance in the flesh. "God so loved the world as to give his Son." Christ so loved the world as to die. Here are feeling and action conjoined in their sublimest manifestations. With many Christians these are disjoined, they have plenty of feeling, but little of action. Is the love of Christ a feeble principle? The inaction of some Christians is a virtual denial of their Master. The love of Christ has constrained to deeds lustrous as stars. Many have emulated Him who said, "I count all things but lost that I may win Christ," but many Christians may be compared to expiring tapers, not "burning and shining lights." The deeds of prowess performed by the soldier, the traveller, the navigator, or the statesman, under the inspiring influence of mere worldly fame, show the children of this world in their generation to be wiser and braver than the children of light. There are, it is true, some departments of the Christian Church full of vitality; not only plenty of giving, but plenty of *doing*, aye, the dirty work! prosaic enough! haunts of vice and ignorance explored, rudeness and insolence encountered, scenes visited where sentiment and romance would die for lack of appropriate food; gentle women, timid women, have gone forth into these realms of darkness, and confronted the spirit of evil. Their purity and their truth have been to them as a shield, their love and their pity have been a fascination, their golden words and acts of sympathy have disarmed the debased and lost ones of their coarseness, their insolence, and their violence.

Why are such instances exceptional? Why should only the few bear the burden and heat of the day, while the many fold their arms and look on? Many reasons are assigned for this inaction. Our space will permit us only to examine a few. First in order is the repulsiveness of the work. The Ragged School, say they, is situated in a low neighbourhood, the building ill ventilated, the children dirty, ignorant, insolent, and inattentive; a class utterly lawless, indisposed to recognise a superior, either in silk or broadcloth.

The work may be repulsive, but should that hinder you? Were the repulsiveness of the work a sufficient reason for its nonperformance, half the work of the world would stand still. There is plenty of repulsive work done for the sake of bread, or fame, or philanthropy. The repulsiveness of a military hospital, during a frightful war, did not deter a Florence Nightingale; the repulsiveness of a pestilential dungeon did not deter a Howard. The truth of the matter is, and self-examination will confirm it, your faith is feeble, and

your love is cold. Think of the scene in Gethsemane, the band of soldiers, the mock trial, the cruel cross. Think of the repulsiveness of this work, and all done for you. Can you look in His face and plead any longer the repulsiveness of the work as a reason for your indolence? Want of time is another of the reasons assigned. With some this plea is genuine; with others it is an evasive excuse, and not a reason. Time can be made. From among the contending claims of the hour, set aside the less important. Be not only diligent in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Some of the most busy men in the world are also the most active supporters and workers in the Ragged School cause. What is at present done by a few can be done by the many. Where there's a will there's a way. You will not admit that of the only two masters whom ye can serve that you have chosen Mammon.

But the excuse, want of time, is frequently pleaded by those who have an abundance of time at their disposal. Idler! each moment is pregnant with eternal issues. Time is a talent; if misused or unemployed, how wilt thou stand at the great account. Scruples as to fitness, also, are urged with an air of authority as a reason for not entering upon the work.

"I am not fit," is frequently a lame and idle excuse, often uttered without thought, and is a judgment pronounced prior to any proper estimate of the work to be done. The work is to teach poor, dirty, ragged children, some of whom are precociously wicked through example, rather than from the presence of any natural vicious propensities. Where is the unfitness? Is the poverty too squalid? are the rags too unsightly? is the dirt too disgusting? Do not be finical; get rid of sentimentality, and go to work. Some of the first ladies in the land have taught, and still teach in Ragged Schools; rank, and sex, and refinement, great parts and scholarly attainments have not shrunk from the work, then why should you? But it is so difficult, you reply; for the children are so ignorant, so indocile, so intractable, so vicious and criminal, that you might as well expect to gather grapes off thorns, or figs off thistles, as to do anything with such children. This is an indictment that cannot be sustained; Ragged School statistics show an abundance of work done. It is so difficult. Is this still the burden of your cry? Know you not that by grappling with and mastering the difficult that you become strong; this is a law of our nature. "Attempt great things, and achieve great things," is a maxim of the wise. "Quit you like men, be strong," says he who fought with beasts at Ephesus. The heroes of the world, whose names are emblazoned on the scroll of fame, were nursed into strength on the lap of difficulty. It is a fine school for humility, this. You talk humbly of your want of fitness; come, then, and deepen your humility by actually fronting your work, and finding how utterly incapable you are; but, at the same time, come and strengthen your faith also by observing the results that accrue from your puerile efforts when performed on simple reliance on Divine aid. The stripling David, by faith, was more than a match for the giant. Feeble though you be, by faith you may become as strong as an angel of the Lord.

With some the prevalent disposition is to do things by proxy. They give their trifle to the cause, and feel that they are freed from all further responsibility in the matter. Admitting their little leisure, admitting the absorbing

nature of their business occupations; still the most busy have the command of some intervals of time; and a rightly-conscienced person will be on the look out for opportunities to do, rather than seek to multiply excuses for not doing. The best evidence of love to Christ is not so much a princely donation, some flaming signal service, that surprises by its singularity, its daring, or its self-sacrifice; but by a steady continuance in well-doing.

Christians! you are members of a Church militant; come, then, to the help of the Lord. Ignorance, and vice, and sin, in their Protean forms, are arrayed in hostility. Ignorant children are waiting your instruction; vicious and criminal children are waiting for the healing influences of the Gospel. Away with the trumpery excuse of a cold night or a low neighbourhood; that the children are too dirty or too rude for you. What is the dirt of the body to the impurity of the soul, from which you have been cleansed? What is the mental ignorance to that deeper spiritual ignorance from which you have been delivered? You have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into God's marvellous light. If you are light in the Lord, it is at your peril that you put it under a bushel.

Let your light shine. Your own increasing illumination depends upon your consecration to the work of doing His will. The path of the just is as the shining light, shining brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

You may attend upon the means of grace, read the Word, be instant in prayer; but no result will be obtained but a sentimental piety—a piety of feeling with only a surface conviction, unless you work. "Well done, good and faithful servant," will be the words of the Master. To many, the words may be addressed, What service have you rendered for Him? What dark and lonely ways have you explored for Him? What crowded haunts have you visited for Him? What poor have you succoured? What affliction have you soothed? What ignorance have you instructed? The most Christ-like work, greater even than that of self-expatriation to heathen lands in foreign climes, is that of seeking out the heathen in your own land. "*Begin at Jerusalem.*" Children such as are, and more of whom should be, in our Ragged Schools, are the last ones for whom you should consecrate your time and your energies to seek out and save. Hear the words of the Master. "Go and work to-day in my vineyard." Away with all excuses; enrol your names at once amongst the staff of voluntary teachers; give once on the Sabbath, and one or more evenings on the week-days to this noble, enterprising, Christ-like work, and you shall reap a thousand-fold in the present life, and in the world to come, life everlasting.

Superintendents and members of Ragged School Committees, register! register! Canvass amongst your friends, and the members of the Christian churches to which you may belong. Take down the names of all who are willing to work for Christ. Get their names for one evening, if not for more; accept no excuse; make out your lists; appoint the time; assign each his or her appropriate part. Let us have an amount of work this winter as shall shame all our previous efforts; do not let it be in the power of any one to disparage your work, by pointing to your lukewarmness. Let your schools be crowded with the roughest, the lowest, the most vicious of our population; if teachers be in abundance you can successfully cope with these stormy elements.

Let some of our more intelligent and gifted men and women give us their

aid. Men or women who combine large intellectual capacities with great moral powers. Such as aspire to rule, here is a realm for your sway.

Committees, do not despair of funds! Set about your work in earnest! Consecration of the heart and life will be met by consecration of the purse; for the gold and silver is the Lord's. Teachers and Committees, be earnest in your work, and your Secretaries will become bold and successful beggars. To deserve success is the way to command it.

The Committee of the Union are anxious to increase their Sunday evening and Week evening efforts. Volunteers! volunteers! volunteers! enrol; of both sexes, volunteers! enrol. And ere long ye shall hear the words of the Master,—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of one of these, ye have done it unto me: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

THE "LIGHT PORTER BRIGADE."*

If to the cries of want, the beckonings of duty, and the facilities presented by an inviting Providence, the heart of man would but willingly and self-renouncingly respond, how very speedily would humanity's solitary places begin to be made glad, and her howling wilderness to rejoice and blossom as the rose. Even a single individual, though neither rich nor titled, will do—what may he not do, in any enterprise of mercy in which he invests his talents and embarks his entire being? There are more than enough resources in any mind that is directed by a zealous and benevolent heart to open up fountains of well-doing that may soon swell into great rivers—"waters to swim in," like the mystic streams seen by the prophet to issue from the sanctuary—and by which no inconsiderable portions of the briny waters of the great moaning sea of humanity may be "healed." Among the more gigantic specimens of the faith that removes mountains, and of the love that conquers all, there towers pre-eminent the charitable institutions of Mr. Müller at Bristol, so interestingly described in the newly issued number of the *Scottish Review*. But there are many benevolent efforts on a smaller scale, conceived in the same loving spirit, which operate as a blessed balm so far as they go, and are duly remembered and registered by Him, at whose hands a cup of cold water held up to the parched lips of the poor will by no means lose its reward.

Among those humbler efforts we have much pleasure in inviting the attention of our readers to one originated a few years ago by our excellent and devoted friend, Mr. Gregan, of Dumfries. It consists in the organisation of a few destitute lads, under the name of the "Light Porter Brigade." It was in 1858 that the idea of employing poor boys, after they left the Ragged School, as light porters on the streets, first suggested itself to his mind. Selecting six of the most destitute boys he could find, he clothed them in a fustian uniform, with scarlet cap-band, and brass number on their jacket, and sent them forth on their mission of running errands, unloading coals, carrying

* The particulars of the origin of this effort we gave on page 78 in vol. for 1859; and on page 240 of the same volume we gave the results of the first year's labours, and the rules under which the lads were governed.

parcels, &c., wherever they could meet with employers. Mr. Gregan's object was not to keep them long on the street, but to obtain for them as soon as practicable, employment of a more settled and permanent kind, and thereby secure for them the prospect of a less precarious and more comfortable subsistence. As individuals of their number hived off into those higher walks of industry, their places were directly filled up with fresh boys. The stated number on the brigade was six. During the first year the boys earned upwards of £60, part of which was laid out in extra clothing for themselves, and part for their board, the balance being lodged in the savings' bank in the name and for the behoof of each boy, in proportion to his earnings. Thus each boy got the full benefit of his own labour.

During the first year the boys in the brigade were lodged in the "Boys' House," and managed by a master and matron, with whom an agreement was made to take charge of them; and in terms of which, moreover, the master was to superintend their education in the evenings.

As regards the second year, its proceedings may be gathered from the following extract from the report of that year, which now lies before us:—

"Another year, the second of the existence of the 'Light Porter Brigade,' terminated on the 31st July. Although during that period there has been not a little to discourage, the results on the whole have been such as to afford much cause for thankfulness to the all-wise Disposer of all things. In the management of these poor boys, much forbearance and sympathy, as well as the exercise of patience, are necessary. Their hearts and dispositions are very wayward, sometimes obdurate, having never been softened down or impressed by kindly and Christian influences, but left to follow out the bent of their unrestrained desires and inclinations, without control or wholesome discipline. About six months ago it was deemed desirable to make a change in the arrangement by which the boys were all lodged at 'The Home;' and it was considered advisable to adopt the plan of the London Shoeblack Brigade, and give these boys who had homes the option of living with their parents, in order that the family feeling may be preserved, and prevent the natural affection which might exist between parents and children being broken. This arrangement has been found to work well to a considerable extent. The boys, after their day's work is over, go to 'The Home,' and give in their earnings to the master, to be entered in the Earnings-book. They have their choice after that is done to take the money to their parents, or leave the amount till Saturday, when their whole week's earnings are repaid to them in one sum.

"The evening classes for reading, writing, and arithmetic, have been open five nights in the week during the season up to the beginning of July, when they were dropped for a short time. These classes will be re-opened on Monday, the 3rd September. At the conclusion of the lessons in the evening the boys assemble for prayers, after which each receives a piece of bread for supper. As the accommodation at 'The Home' is ample, it is proposed that in future the classes will be open to boys who are not connected with the 'Light Porter Brigade,' whose education has been neglected, and who, from being engaged at work during the day, have no opportunity to obtain instruction in the ordinary way. These classes are gratuitous, and admission may be had by personal application at 'The Home.' During the past year, eighteen boys have been taken into the Brigade; three of these have entered the army, six are in respectable employment, five are at present in the Brigade, and four have been dismissed as incapable. From the three young soldiers encouraging letters are received."

The third year in the history of this humane effort is now drawing to a close, and a report of it will be issued in due course.

Mr. Gregan, we learn, has, since last May, enlarged "The Home," which now contains six apartments, two for the master and matron, and four for the use of the boys.

There are at present, he also informs us, thirty boys at the evening class, and their education is proceeding, in his judgment, very satisfactorily.

Mr. Gregan does not despair being able still further to enlarge "The Home" so as to furnish accommodation and a welcome for an increased number of those young wandering Arabs who are growing up in all our considerable centres of population in idleness, misery, and crime. He is making an effort to get the whole class properly clothed to go to church before the winter sets in. He has promised them the materials, provided they save up and pay for the making; and he speaks with much interest of the emulation amongst them, who shall have the honour of first turning out in his new Sunday suit.

On Friday evenings Mr. Gregan endeavours to secure the aid of some friend to meet the boys, and address to them a few kind and salutary words for their good. This they greatly enjoy, and thankfully appreciate the sympathetic interest thus manifested in their behalf. "It seems," says Mr. Gregan, "to awaken in them kindly feelings, and make them happy. It is to me a pleasure to see their careworn faces brightened up with the smile of joy, and they sing the evening song of praise at worship with all their hearts. I hope to find more than one in the group who may take his turn in leading the devotional exercises after the lessons, and thus train them up to fulfil their relative duties in the Church, of which, I trust, not a few of them will in the future be ornaments. I endeavour to inculcate the adoption of temperance among them, and the majority are teetotallers. The master and matron—Mr. and Mrs. Dempster—are most patient and indefatigable in their efforts, and have secured the affections of the boys." Mr. Gregan, too, we understand, has seats in the church which all the Protestant boys are entitled to occupy. They prepare for church every Sabbath morning at "The Home" at ten o'clock, and attend public worship morning and afternoon, after which they turn into the Sabbath School, where a competent teacher is waiting to instruct them in heavenly things. He has also, we are glad to learn, several boys in his class of the Roman Catholic persuasion.

We are confident our readers will fully share in the feelings of delight which these interesting facts are so well fitted to inspire, and join with us in wishing that Mr. Gregan may be cheered in his noble efforts by the encouraging sympathy of others, and, above all, by seeing that the good work continues to prosper in his hand. To such a mind the future well-being of his *protégés* is his best reward.

MEETING OF THE PAID TEACHERS.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union issued invitations to all the Masters and Mistresses of the London Ragged Schools, to confer with them on the question of—

"*School Books:—Which are found the most useful in Ragged Schools?*"

The meeting was held on Thursday, November 14th, in the Hall of the

Sunday School Union, 56, Old Bailey, and was numerously attended. After tea, Mr. Cuthbertson was called to the chair. Prayer having been offered and a hymn sung, the chairman congratulated the Paid Teachers of Ragged Schools on their meeting for the first time in the Hall of the Sunday School Union, the use of which had been freely granted by the Committee of the Sunday School Union, in token of their sympathy with Ragged School workers. The Parent Committee sympathise with the difficulties of the Teachers in the prosecution of their onerous and daily duties, and use what power they possess to give tangible effect to that sympathy when circumstances give them the right opportunity. On the present occasion they have convened you for the purpose of considering an important subject, and one on which you would, doubtless, be prepared, from every-day experience, to give an enlightened decision. After all, it is not so much the book, or the mere machinery, which will tell upon the scholars, as it is that high object the Christian teacher has in view, and that moral earnestness and enlightened perseverance that the teacher puts forth till his object is realised. As a means to that end we have to-night to consider the question submitted to you.

Mr. Gent stated he had recently gone to various School Book depôts and publishers to ascertain what Reading books are published for School use. He had also been to the Book department of the Kensington Museum, and had carefully gone through the specimen sets of books there kept for examination. The Museum Catalogue, three inches thick, and containing upwards of 1,000 pages, was presented, into which he had been dipping and extracting what was considered useful to lay before this meeting. He then presented specimen sets of Reading Books, and Sheet Lessons, for use in Public Schools, of which the following were the principal:—

Sunday School Union—1st, 2nd, 3rd Class Books, and Adult Books.
Do. do. Boxes of Moveable Letters.
British and Foreign School Society—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and two Sequels of Daily Lessons.
Baker's Circle of Knowledge and Manuals, for Secular and Bible teaching.
Mimpriss's Three Grades, and Manuals to each; also Sheet Lessons in tin cases, and Maps.
National Society's Reading Lessons, with Sequels and Supplements.
Graduated Series, a set of five books.
Voluntary School Association, set of books.
Chambers' Educational Course.
McCulloch's Series of six books.
Constable's Educational Series of ten books.
Scottish School Book Association, Series of three books.
Nelson's School Series of seven books.
Irish Commissioners set of eleven books, with Arithmetic and English Grammar.

Mr. Gent also presented specimen copies of Hymns he had specially printed for this meeting, on sheets, in very large type, to be suspended at the Superintendent's desks, and to be read from all parts of the school-room, which attracted special attention. He informed the meeting that the whole

of the books and sheet lessons now submitted will be kept at the office, 1, Exeter Hall, for examination by teachers whenever they may wish to see them.

The subject being thus introduced, the question was generally discussed, without loss of time, till nine o'clock. Mr. Baker, Mr. Newton, sen., Mr. Hytche, Mr. Sayers, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Watts took part in the discussion.

The time having arrived for closing the meeting without all having had an opportunity to give expression to their views, a resolution was proposed, and carried unanimously, to the following effect:—

"That the sincere thanks of this meeting be presented to the Committee of the Ragged School Union for convening the Paid Teachers on the question submitted, and that they be respectfully requested to call the teachers together again on an early occasion to further consider the subject of School Books."

The meeting then separated.

Correspondence.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACT.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—I am glad that you have inserted "Hopeful's" letter on the new Industrial Schools Act, as thereby your readers have heard both sides of the question at issue. As, however, to use his own words, he has "unintentionally fallen into a few errors," both as regards my facts and my inferences, I must beg permission to give a brief reply. To render my remarks clearer, each paragraph will have a separate notice.

In reference to paragraph 1 of "Hopeful's" letter, I must re-state—what the most cursory glance at the first two paragraphs of my article will show—that my remarks mainly referred to the nineteen Refuges and Industrial Feeding Schools affiliated to the Ragged School Union. As a Ragged School worker, I view the question solely from the Ragged School stand-point, leaving Reformatories—or juvenile Jails veiled by an euphemism—to those who are more interested in their success. The argument was this, that if *our* Refuges, after incurring great expenses, are to be cast off by the Government unless they become certified, or rather Prisons under another name, let Ragged School managers beware lest they accept a State subsidy only in the sequel to be left in the lurch, unless they are prepared to bow to State-dictation.

2. I re-affirm that the new Act, and its collateral minutes, will practically withdraw the aid hitherto given to our Refuges and Industrial Schools unless they become Reformatories. As "Hopeful" does not indicate that the synopsis of the Act embodied in my article is incorrect, your readers can judge whether my inference is correct. "Hopeful" in fact confirms this statement, for he says that, presuming our Refuges become certified, "these Schools will now in relation to Government more nearly resemble Reformatories." Now, whatever be the value of Prisons or Reformatories in their proper place, I am not prepared

to see our Refuges transformed from Homes into Prisons, and our scholars placed in the charge of a jailer rather than of a parent.

3. I do not know whether "Hopeful" is acquainted with our Ragged Night Schools, but as he does not seem to know what are the constituents of a *genuine* Ragged School, I presume not. If so, let him visit any of the Night Schools in the Devil's Acre, Field Lane, or New Cut, and he will find many vagrants congregated there, and not a few juvenile roughs and thieves, all of whom have "entered those institutions voluntarily." Your correspondent seems to favour that *coup de main* whereby it is proposed to capture and incarcerate all vagrants and suspected criminals; but not only do I consider that scheme alien from English principles, but I have more faith in the Gospel than in the policeman, to agree to supersede Christian kindness by the strong grip of the law.

4. It is true that Government was partially forced into Refuge work. But by whom? I was always under the impression that Sir J. Pakington, Sir S. Northcote, and Mr. Adderley were the leaders in the movement for State-aid. Now, as these were either candidates for, or actually in office when aid was granted, my inference that the Government did gradually creep into the Refuge movement is substantially correct.

5. This paragraph is an assumption. No social measure is introduced into Parliament without preliminary discussions in the Cabinet, in which its general bearing in relation to all departments of the Government is examined. Hence, we are justified in considering that the withdrawal of the aid of the Privy Council to our Refuges was made in connection with the forthcoming measure on Industrial Schools, and thus that it was, so to speak, but the shadow of the New Industrial Schools Act.

6. The remark that the State will "for the first time interfere with the internal management" of the *London* Refuges is tacitly admitted by "Hopeful." For he says that "the Scotch Act contains a precisely similar clause." The new clause, then, which gives the Home Secretary a veto on the regulation made by the local committees, is an importation, and I can only say that I hope that it will never be acclimatised in England.

7. The last paragraph of your correspondent's letter is based upon two "Ifs." Grant them, and his conclusions necessarily follow; but what if I deny both? It is not a personal question as to who shall lead in this great missionary work; if so, our work would be tainted by the grossest vanity: for, from knowledge of the leaders, I have sufficient faith to believe that, if the Holy Spirit saw fit to baptize men more adapted to the work, they would readily retire from their labours, and re-echo the words of John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease." But, after all, the real question is this—Shall Ragged Schools and Refuges continue evangelistic, or degenerate into mere schemes for social elevation? Already the State assists Romanist and Unitarian Industrial Schools, where we find everything taught save the Gospel of Christ. Now, as one that values the soul more than the body, I cannot bid them God-speed in their Christless labour. If *we* abandon this movement for bringing the Gospel before the outcast and vagrant, what security have we that the State will pursue our main object, viz., building up souls for heaven? When the nation is really Christian, then we shall readily deliver up the souls God has given us to its guardianship; but when that time arrives it needs not the ken of the prophet to declare that Ragged Schools and Refuges will be no longer necessary. I am, &c.,

THE WRITER.

Notices of Meetings.

THE LAMB AND FLAG.

THE Lamb and Flag School was among the first of Ragged Schools.

As an evidence of its success, a public meeting was held in connection with it on November 13, for the purpose of opening a new school, which has been built on the site of the old one. The occasion of opening the new edifice for so important a purpose as the reformation and education of the ignorant and destitute children of the district was observed by the inhabitants and the parishioners with much enthusiasm. The new building consists of two good school-rooms, airy and accommodating, with ventilation complete, and fitted for the education of full five hundred children.

On the occasion of the opening of these schools the ceremony was presided over by Mr. Samuel Morley.

Mr. Watt having read a statement in connection with the establishment and progress of the school up to the present time,

The Chairman stated that he had much pleasure in acceding to the wishes of the promoters of these schools, and to preside over the present meeting, as he was aware of the influences which Ragged Schools were calculated to exercise over the lower orders of society. He was certainly the more anxious to give his countenance and his support to these institutions from the fact that they seem to have been of late depreciated, and in a manner condemned, by high authorities—at all events, of men bearing a high name in the State—even Educational Commissioners, who he considered had inflicted a slight on these schools which they were not at all deserving of. (Cheers.) He had been from the outset a great admirer of the Ragged School movement, and he did not like to see it derided in the manner it had been. He must say that he considered that Report most derogatory to the feelings of the people of this country. If there was any one feeling more than another upon which the social fabric of this country was based, it would be found to be that of practical sympathy. It was for the manifestation of that feeling the philanthropists and good men of this country looked. They looked for a greater sympathy between classes, and he hoped the intelligence of the present age would have the effect of bringing that about. They all remembered, no doubt, what was the dying ejaculation of Mr. Justice Talfourd, who said that the most thorough remedy for raising the poor and bringing them into a state of usefulness would be to bridge over the breach between them and the rich. That he considered Ragged Schools capable of doing, and therefore their extension had his cordial support. There could be no doubt but that the effort of Ragged School teaching was to enable the children who were brought under the influence of it to fight the battle of life in a proper and successful manner. That, some people said, could be done by giving these children a more secular education, but he had found, from a due consideration of the subject, that he would give those children no other religious education than he would give to his own. He would never put a child of his to a school where the schoolmaster was not enabled to give him a proper religious education; and the best criterion of his getting such education was that a religious teacher could not have a pupil under his tuition without imparting to him such knowledge. In fact, such knowledge was never and never could be imparted by a teacher who had it not. His opinion was that everything should be done to promote what was called the three "R's" of education—reading, writing, and arithmetic; but he wished to see on that a proper and thorough religious education, taking it out of the category of pounds shillings and pence, and placing it upon true religious principles. He was glad, therefore, that Lord Shaftesbury had made the stand he had done against the contemplated aggression on Ragged Schools, and he should do his best to uphold them as originally established. There were many of the social habits of this country which had to be overcome, and these he had no doubt Ragged Schools, and the machinery

set at work by Ragged Schools, would be the means of effecting. He wished to see the day when they would be prosperous, and he hoped that the present institution would continue to prosper as it had hitherto done, and that the remaining £200 due respecting it would speedily be paid up.

The Rev. Paxton Hood then moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting heartily joined with the committee and teachers in thankfulness to God for the erection of the present building, and was of opinion that the structure was suitable for the work intended to be carried on.

Mr. Connell having seconded the resolution, it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Tindal Atkinson next moved a resolution, to the effect that a suitable building having been erected to carry on the Ragged School work on a large scale, the meeting resolved to supply the necessary machinery, in the shape of funds and teachers.

This resolution having been seconded by Mr. Warland,

The Rev. Robert Maguire, in supporting the resolution, congratulated the meeting on the auspicious circumstances under which the schools had been opened. He stated that, holding the position he did in the parish, he felt the deepest interest in the spread of education, especially among the poor of that locality. He heartily concurred in what had been said about the necessity of the rich sympathising with the poor. He believed that a great deal of this sympathy was felt, and the meeting before him was a proof that such was the case. He rejoiced to see at this inauguration a meeting of all classes—churchwardens, City merchants, barristers, and men high in station, who earned their daily bread by their daily toil.

The resolution was then agreed to.

A collection was then made, to which the chairman contributed £25; while other sums, varying from £7 to £10, were contributed by other parties present.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

BELL ALLEY.

The annual meeting was held on October 29th, in Albion Hall, London Wall. Mr. Alderman Hale presided on the occasion.

The Chairman said that this was the fourth annual meeting of these schools, and he had very great pleasure in being present, and taking part in the proceedings, for he believed that the Ragged School principle was so well established, that their meetings were not so numerously attended as formerly; but the warmth of feeling towards them had in no way diminished. It was felt these schools progressed in the most satisfactory manner, and diffused a great deal of good in the districts in which they were situate, as they were the means of rescuing a great number of children from vice, by instruction in the schools, and tuition in the workshops in connexion with them. At one time it was thought that the movement would not justify them in dedicating a building like that in which they were then assembled to the Ragged Schools, but experience had shown them that great good had resulted from it, and it was well for those persons who were possessed of wealth, that they should give a little of it for the purposes of these schools, seeing that so many poor children were deserving of their consideration. The worthy Alderman said that, during the last three or four years, the crimes of a certain class of juvenile delinquents had much decreased, and this result he attributed to the great benefits afforded by the Ragged Schools, and by the Shoe-black Societies, which found employment for those boys who were willing to work for their living. He thought that the labour of those Christian men and women who gave their time to bring about such a state of things was much to be praised, for in the carrying out of the work of the teachers a large amount of Christian feeling was required. He felt that they were engaged in doing a good work, and he sincerely hoped that it would go on and prosper.

The Hon. Secretary read the fourth annual report of the school, after which the meeting was addressed by Rev. Mr. Roberton, Rev. Mr. Thornton, Rev. Mr. Daynes, and Messrs. Hobson, Webster, Curtis, and Stevens.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."—JESUS.

"Exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day."—PAUL.

"The night cometh, when no man can work."—JESUS.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."—SOLOMON.

"There is work in the crowded street;
There is work in the silent cell;
'Mid the noisiest hum and the busiest feet;
In hall where thronging multitudes meet;
In the hovel where outcasts dwell.

"Stay not to choose your path,
Shrink not from heat or cold;
Sow by all waters, the Master saith,
Then nourish the seed by prayer and faith,
And you'll gather a hundred fold."

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TO OUR READERS.

On taking a retrospect of the year 1861, the changes made or proposed in the schemes for the education of the youth of England, aided by the State, seem more than usually numerous. The Committee of Council on Education, in their Report, dated April 24th, 1861, give notice that all Refuge Schools, certified under 20 & 21 Vict. c. 48, will cease to be chargeable to the grant for public education; and will, from the end of the financial year 1860-1, become chargeable to that for law and justice. The same change is to take place with all the Industrial Schools of Scotland, under Dunlop's Act (17 & 18 Vict. c. 74). The third change refers to the uncertified Refuges, and which compels them either to certify under the Industrial Schools Act of 1861, or receive no aid from any Department of the State, after the current financial year.

The same Committee, under date of July 29, 1861, issued "A Revised Code of Regulations," which, if carried out, will revolutionise the whole scheme of education, as worked out under the old code; one chief feature of which is to grant the annual aid, in one item, of one penny for every attendance for a child at School after the first 100. This payment is subject to examination according to age, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and several other conditions; showing the payments for the future to be for *results*, and not as in the past, for progress. The tendency of this new code, as of the old, is to secularise the education of the people. It has, however, met with very general opposition on the part of School managers and teachers. Parliament, however, when they meet in 1862, will settle what shall be done with this new code. These changes are, it seems, in accordance with the views expressed in the Report of the Royal Commission on Education. That Report bears date 18th March, 1861; the Commissioners for the three previous years having been engaged in collecting the materials of which it is the superstructure. That Report is well written, and contains much valuable matter upon the general question of education; but, unfortunately for the Commissioners and for the Report itself, it contained gross errors on the question of Ragged Schools, and expressed a very unfavourable opinion of their usefulness, which caused the Earl of Shaftesbury to bring the subject before the House of Lords, in May.

The subject was afterwards discussed in the House of Commons, which resulted in the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the subject. That Committee sat during June and July, and took evidence from many persons, among whom was the Assistant-Commissioner, who had made the evil report on Ragged Schools, and who had now a good opportunity to confirm it, if possible. He, however, sadly blundered at the close of his evidence, for when pressed, he admitted that that part of his Report which sadly reflected on Ragged Schools was based on what had been told him, and not from his personal examination. The Royal Commissioners had received a very different impression of that Report made to them by this person; for on page 389 of their Report, they say—"Mr. Cumin made minute *personal* inquiries into the condition of these Schools" (scholars), and "he arrived at the conclusion, that the parents of the children in attendance were of the same class as those children in ordinary Schools." And yet, in evidence, he shows that this very part of his Report rests on hearsay. *Question* 3716.—"In fact, you yourself did not examine any of these 1048 children? I visited the homes of *perhaps* a dozen." *Question* 3717.—"With that exception, you did not *personally* examine any of those 1048? *No!!*" The Report, based on this hearsay evidence, condemned Ragged Schools as useless, if not injurious. This, however, is not endorsed by the Select Committee; for in their Report, dated July 23, 1861, they state that Ragged Schools closely resemble Sunday Schools. They are strongly impressed with a missionary and religious character. Their primary object is to reclaim and civilise a child, and then place it in some honest calling. They finish their Report with, "That whatever children are not reached by the Industrial Schools Bill, be left to the missionary exertions of the Ragged School managers, without interference by (*i.e.* support from) the Government."

We thus close the year 1861, without having sustained any serious injury from enemies, and with, we hope, increasing numbers of real friends and supporters of the Ragged School cause.

1, Exeter Hall,
December, 1861.

The Editor.

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Thy servant kept his father's sheep.—
1 Samuel xvii. 34.

1 GOOD David, whose psalms have so often
been sung,
At first was not noble or grand,
But only a shepherd boy, when he was young,
Though afterwards king of the land.

2 He tended his flocks on the pastures by day,
And kept them in safety by night;
And tho' a poor shepherd, he did not delay
To do what was holy and right.

3 For while he sat watching his sheep in the
fold,
To guard them from danger abroad,
It then was his greatest delight we are told,
To think on the works of the Lord.

4 Thus seeking so early for knowledge and
truth,
His childhood in wisdom began,
And therefore the Lord was the guide of
his youth,
And made him so mighty a man.

5 So he soon was made king, for the prophet
foretold
That God meant to honour him thus;
And if we will serve Him like David of old,
The Lord will be mindful of us.

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4 Renew my will from day to day;
Blend it with thine, and take away
Whatever makes it hard to say,
"Thy will be done."

5 Then, when on earth I breathe no more
The prayer, oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing, upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done."

69

ANGELS.

He shall give His angels charge over thee.—
Psalm xci. 11

1 AROUND the throne of God a band
Of bright and glorious angels stand;
They wait around him, ready still
To sing his praise and do his will.

2 Lord, give thy angels every day
Command to guide us on our way;
And bid them every evening keep
Their watch around us while we sleep.

3 So shall no wicked thing draw near
To do us harm or cause us fear;
And we shall dwell when life is past,
With angels round thy throne at last.

70

MOUNT OF OLIVES. 8. 7. 4.

He will be our guide even unto death.—
Psalm xlviii. 14.

1 FATHER, in my life's young morning,
May thy word direct my way;
Let me heed each gracious warning,
Lest my feet should go astray;
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Let thy promise be my stay.

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And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth; and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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Cripples' Home.

Casterton, Mrs.	5	0	0
Watson, Miss	1	0	0
Watson, Miss M.	1	0	0

Field Lane.

Brown, Miss	1	0	0
Brown, Miss S.	1	0	0
Lees, Lady	0	2	6
M. A. B.	1	0	0
S. W., per *Record*	0	10	0
Watson, Miss	2	0	0

Female Dormitory.

Cooper, Mrs. and the Misses	1	0	0

Female Preventive, &c.

Amys, Mrs.	0	5	0
Creed, Miss	0	5	0
Saunders, Mrs.	1	0	0
Watson, Miss	4	0	0
Watson, Miss M.	1	0	0

Hill Street.

Watson, Miss	1	0	0
Watson, Miss M.	1	0	0

Invalid's Dinner Table.

Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0

King's Cross.

Watson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Watson, Miss	1	0	0
Watson, Miss M.	1	0	0

Little Saffron Hill.

Sale of Fancy Work per Miss Hawkins	0	8	0

New Nichol Street.

G. H.	5	0	0

Princes Street.

Ginger, D., Esq.	1	0	0

Smith's Place.

Sale of Fancy Work per Miss Hawkins	1	0	0

Wentworth Street.

Sale of Fancy Work per Miss Hawkins	0	12	0

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Spoons, 2nd Quality	33s.	24s.	14s. 6d.
Forks „	31s.	23s.	—

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